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Daniel Boone National Forest

Redbird Ranger District

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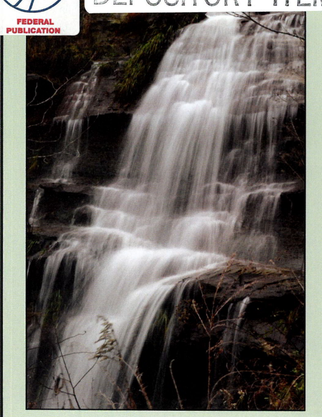

America's Great Outdoors

Kentucky 2014

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
0086-C

For More Information Contact:

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Leave No Trace Tread Lightly

PP

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Emergencies
Law Enforcement

Emergencies Only
Call 911

Leslie County Sheriff
(606) 672-2200

Clay County Sheriff
(606) 598-3471

Purchase Maps Online

http://nationalforeststore.com

http://store.usgs.gov

National forest roads are shown on this map for reference only. Roads actually open for public use are officially designated on the Motorized Vehicle Use Map that is available at all Forest Service offices.

Road conditions subject to change. Local inquiry strongly advised.

Note: Many roads through private lands on this map have been omitted.

All trails entering wilderness areas are closed to motorized or mechanized vehicles.

Public lands are subject to changes and leasing. Local inquiry should be made before entering.

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Welcome to the

Daniel Boone National Forest Redbird Ranger District

Welcome to the Redbird Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The district encompasses nearly 146,000 acres of national forest land across six counties in southeastern Kentucky. These lands are managed for outdoor recreation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Tucked away in the remote foothills of Appalachia, this region of the Cumberland Plateau provides a great abundance of wood, water, and wildlife. At the base of steep and rugged terrain, the three forks of the Kentucky River's headwaters flow through the area, enhancing its biological diversity and ecological significance. The Redbird Ranger District contains the headwaters for two of these forks, the South and Middle Forks of the Kentucky River.

The Redbird area is steeped in American history. The Red Bird River was named in honor of the legendary Cherokee Chief Red Bird, who in the 1700s lived in what is now Clay County, KY. The Redbird Ranger District office was originally built in 1924 by local craftsmen. The building features hand-cut wood paneling including walnut, oak, maple, and American chestnut. It is in the process of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The flora, fauna, rugged mountains, mountain streams, and history of the Redbird Ranger District provide a setting that is unique to Kentucky. Recreational opportunities on the district include hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking, OHV riding, and driving on scenic byways. The district is at the heart of the largest free ranging elk herd east of Montana. The district includes the Redbird Wildlife Management Area and the Redbird Crest Trail, a 91-mile long multiple-use trail.

Caring for the Land and Serving People

The Daniel Boone National Forest is part of the Forest Service, a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. In addition to providing our nation with a bountiful supply of natural resources, the national forest lands offer an abundance of recreation opportunities in America's Great Outdoors.

Recreation Opportunities

The district is very popular with a wide variety of visitors who come to enjoy the scenic beauty, recreation opportunities, and abundant wildlife. Some of the popular game species are whitetail deer, turkey, elk, black bear, and squirrel. Cawood Recreation Area and Big Double Creek Picnic Area are popular day-use areas that are often used for picnicking and family reunions. The nearly 100-mile Redbird Crest Trail is a premier OHV trail system. Although there are no developed camping areas on the district, dispersed camping is permitted throughout the Redbird Ranger District except at Cawood Recreation Area and Big Double Picnic Area. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or back of a rock shelter.

Big Double Creek Picnic Area

Located in Clay County off Highway 66, this day-use area provides nine picnic sites in the cool shade of a creek-side forest, one of which is wheelchair accessible. Each picnic site provides a grill and table. Two fields offer play areas for softball, volleyball, horseshoes and other activities. Vault toilets are wheelchair accessible. While no fee is required, the area is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Big Double is open from 6 am to 10 pm from early April to the end of October.

Cawood Picnic Area

This quiet and comfortably remote day-use area has 10 picnic sites for those looking to enjoy the tranquility of the great outdoors. This area once served as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp during the 1930s.

Site amenities include grills, picnic tables, horseshoe pits and accessible toilet facilities. While no fee is required, the area is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cawood Picnic Area is open from 6 am to 10 pm from early April to the end of October.

Redbird Crest Trail

This multiple-use trail provides nearly 100 miles of recreation for off-highway vehicle use (dirt bikes and ATVs less than 50 inches wide), hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. This trail is popular with those who enjoy the challenge of rugged terrain and outdoor adventure. The trail is open year round.

Trailhead parking is available at three Forest Service developed sites. The Forest Service sites include Peabody Trailhead by the district office, Bear Creek Trailhead along Kentucky Highway 66 near the Red Bird Mission, and Sugar Creek Trailhead at the headwaters of Sugar Creek in the Redbird Wildlife Management Area. All three locations include wheelchair accessible vault toilets.

Off-highway Vehicles

The Redbird Crest Trail is the only trail designated for off-highway vehicle use on national forest lands on the Redbird Ranger District. Vehicles must be 50 inches or less in width. Riders must wear a helmet. Possession or operation of motorized vehicles off of designated routes is prohibited.

Fee Required

A fee permit is required to ride off-highway vehicles on the Redbird Crest Trail. A 1-day, 3-day, or annual permit may be purchased at the Redbird Ranger District Office or local vendors. A list of vendors is available on the forest website.

Redbird Wildlife Management Area

This 25,529-acre area is managed in cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to conserve wildlife resources and associated habitat and to provide ample opportunities to safely pursue hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife-related activities.

The area is mostly forested with steep terrain. Wildlife openings are maintained as suitable foraging habitat for deer, turkey, squirrel, raccoon, grouse, black bear, and elk. Wildlife viewing opportunities include the largest elk population east of the Mississippi River, as well as an abundance of plant and animal species that inhabit the area. All hunting and fishing on national forest lands requires a valid state license according to Kentucky rules and regulations.

Be Bear Aware

Black bears are common in Kentucky. Learn safe practices before visiting. Proper storage of attractants is required. Attractants include anything having an odor that may attract bears such as food, cooking grease, toothpaste, soap or garbage.

- Make noise to avoid surprising a bear. If a bear approaches, move away slowly and make lots of noise. Never approach a bear or other wild animal.
- Do not hike in the dark.
- Properly dispose of food scraps and garbage.
- Do not leave food in coolers unattended, even in developed picnic areas. If bear-proof containers are not available, store food and garbage inside a hard-top vehicle or trailer (not in tents).
- Wipe tabletops clean before vacating a picnic area or campsite.
- If a bear is observed nearby, pack up food and trash and quickly vacate the area.
- If attacked by a bear, fight back by using any object available.

Tread Lightly! On Land

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

Tread Lightly! On Water

Travel responsibly on designated waterways and launch your watercraft in designated areas.

Respect the rights of others including anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Educate yourself by learning rules and regulations, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and to operate your equipment safely.

Avoid sensitive areas and operating your watercraft in shallow waters or near shorelines at high speeds.

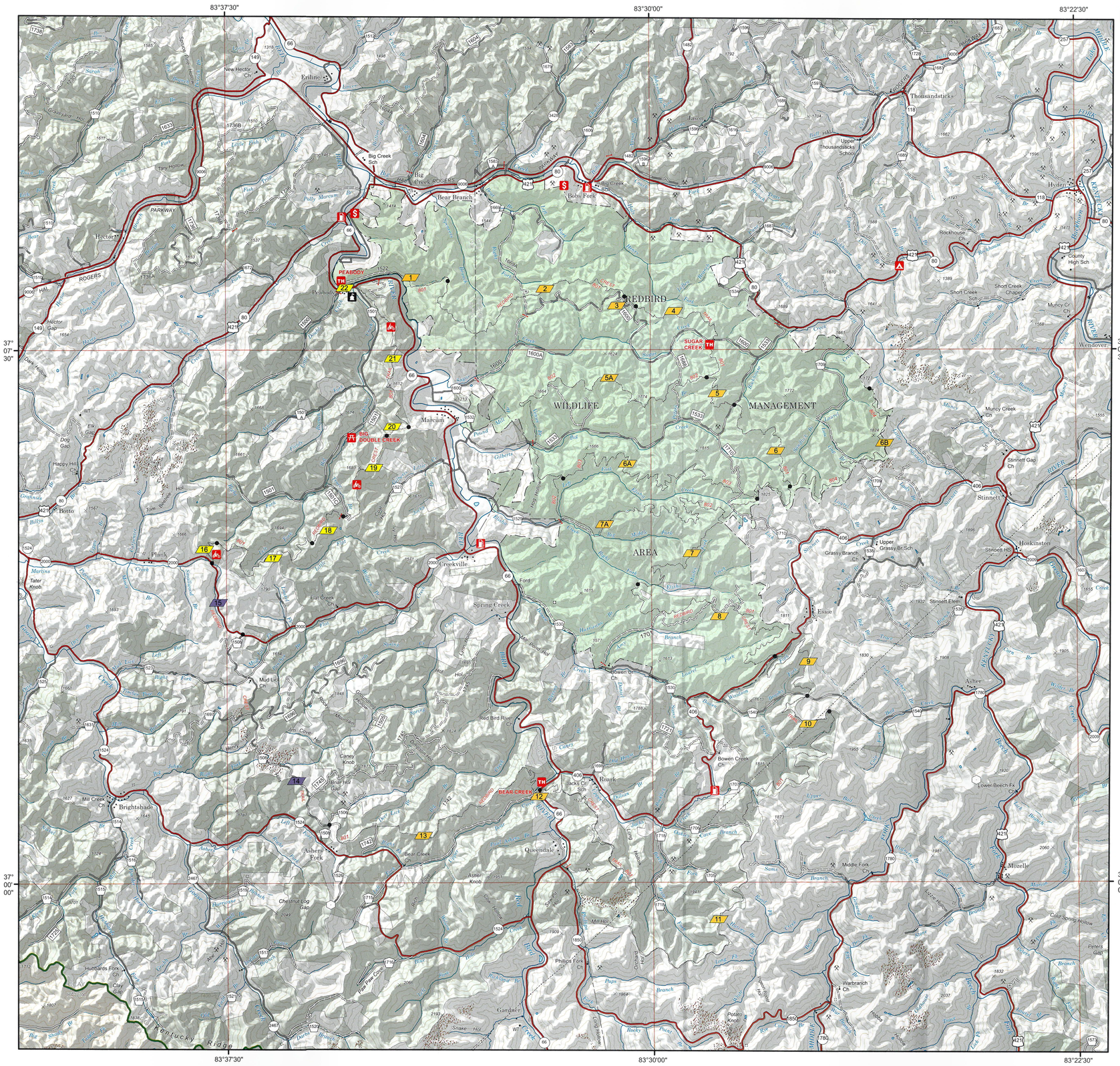
Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of fuel, oil and waste, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

Leave No Trace — Take Only Memories

Leave a clean environment for other visitors and forest residents.

LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR ETHICS

tread lightly! ON LAND AND WATER



Bull elk

1:63,360

1 0.5 0 1 2 Miles

1 0.5 0 1 2 Kilometers

REDBIRD CREST TRAIL INFORMATION

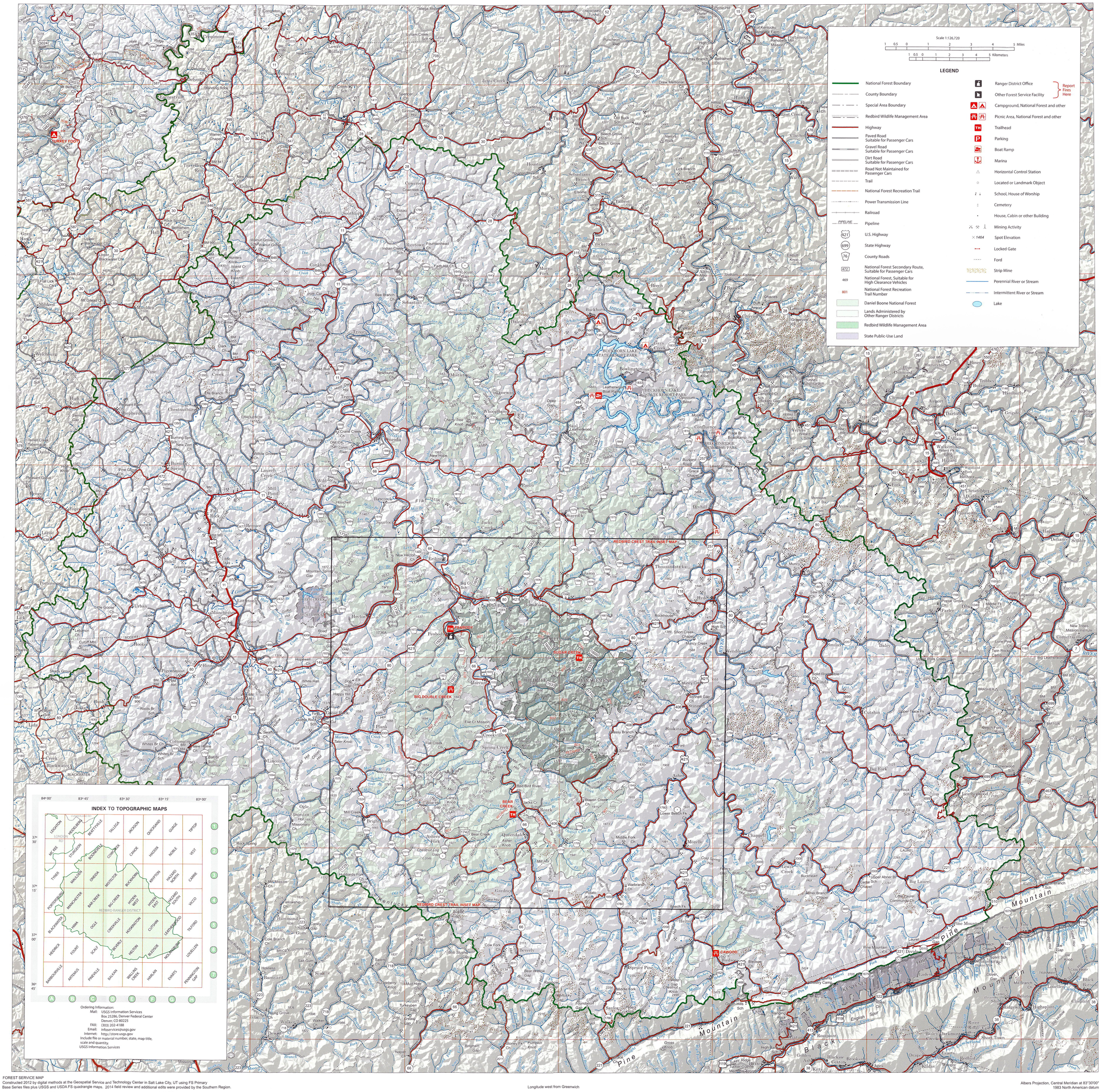
TRAIL SECTION	MILES
1	2.0
2	5.0
3	0.3
4	2.0
5	2.2
5A	6.5
6	4.7
6A	6.7
6B	5.0
7	2.9
7A	7.0
8	6.7
9	2.9
10	2.6
11	12.7
12	0.2
13	5.2
14	4.2
15	1.4
16	0.8
17	3.5
18	1.2
19	1.9
20	0.4
21	2.9
22	0.2

KEY TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- Trail Bike
- Buy Pass Here
- Gas Station
- Camping
- Trailhead
- Ranger Station
- OHVs Less than 50" Wide
- Street Legal Vehicles
- Single Track Vehicles Only

Redbird District Office

REDBIRD RANGER DISTRICT



FOREST SERVICE MAP
Constructed 2012 by digital methods at the Geospatial Service and Technology Center in Salt Lake City, UT using FS Primary Base Series files plus USGS and USDA FS quadrangle maps. 2014 field review and additional edits were provided by the Southern Region.

Longitude west from Greenwich

Albers Projection, Central Meridian at 83°30'00"
1983 North American datum